

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 7-13 and claim 21 have been allowed. Claim 8 is objected to, but otherwise allowable. Claims 1-6 and 14-20 are rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102. Claim 22 is rejected as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 1-6 and 14-20 have been cancelled. Claims 8 and 22 have been amended to further clarify the subject matter therein. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the above-identified application including the claims as originally filed.

I. OBJECTIONS

Claim 8 is objected to because the Examiner states that the "or " in line 4 should be "and" and "using;" should be "using." Applicant adopts the Examiner's suggestion, as shown in amended claim 8. Claim 8 is now in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests that objection of this claim be reconsidered and withdrawn.

II. REJECTION UNDER §102(b)

Claims 1-6 and 14-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) as being anticipated by Balshusemann (DE4112168). In order to further expedite prosecution, please cancel claims 1-6 and 14-20 without prejudice and disclaimer.

III. REJECTION UNDER §112

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the

invention. Specifically, the Examiner requests clarification of whether the concentration of both Tris and HEPES are in the range of 0.05 to 0.125 M. The Examiner further stated that claim 22 would be allowable if rewritten with clarification. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 22 to clarify that both Tris and HEPES buffer have concentrations in the range of 0.05 to 0.125 M. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 22 is in condition for allowance and rejection on this basis should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

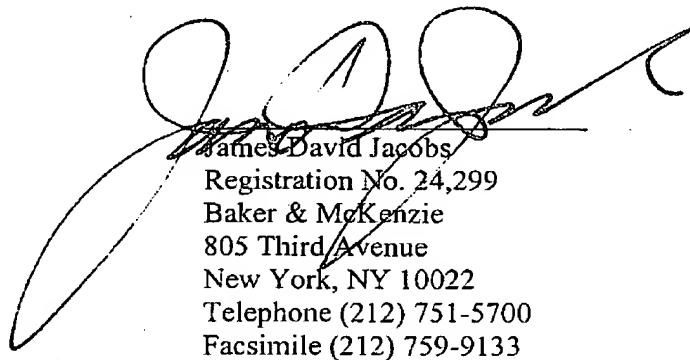
CONCLUSION

This communication is believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and in condition for allowance. The claims, in view of the foregoing explanation, are believed to be patentable over the prior art, and a favorable Office Action is hereby requested.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Dated: December 8, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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